(c) The details of MIG aircraft crashes during the last three years alongwith causal factors are given in the statement. (*See* below).

21 aircraft have been lost due to technical defects.

Statement

Details of MIG aircraft crashes during the last three years

Financial Year	MIG Series Aircraft Cat-1 Accidents	MIG Series Aircraft Lost	Human Error (Air-crew)	Human Error (Surface)	Bird Hit	Technical Defect	Un-Resolved
1998-99	16**	18	08	—	—	06	02
1999-2000	18*	19	09	01	02	05	01
2000-2001	17*	18	08	—	02	07	—
2001-2002 (upto 11 Nov. 2001)	09	09	05	—	01	03	—
Total	60****	64	30	01	05	21	03

Each* Denotes a mid air collision accident where in an additonal aircraft was lost.

Recommendations of Price Negotiation Committee for Purchase of Admiral Gorshkov

313. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is going to constitute Price Negotiating Committee for the purchase of the Russian Aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expert Committee constituted to look into the

technical specifications has submitted its Report; and

(d) what are the recommendations made by the Expert Committee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The inter-Governmental agreement (IGA) signed on 4th October, 2000, *inter-alia* provides for the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov, an aircraft carrier from Russia and its refit and modernisation. The committee constituted to examine the Detailed Project Document (DPD) received from Russia has, recently, submitted its report. Investment decision on the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov has not yet been taken.

Shortage of officers in Armed Forces

314. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item "Defence jobs lose their sheen" published in the News times dated the 19th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the number of officers' shortage in Army, Navy and Air Force during the last three years, year-wise and wing-wise;

(c) the reasons for not filling in the vacancies and also the reasons for early retirement of such officers; and

(d) steps being taken by Union Government to fill in the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.